

although, of course, far more naked than in an average *Mus*; on the other hand, in *P. lepidus* the tail is smooth and hairless, as in *Uromys*.

Skull very much as in *P. lamia*, except that the zygomata are not so remarkably expanded outwards anteriorly, but are of normal expansion; nasals rather narrower; palatal foramina even more narrow and contracted, contrasting with the more open ones of *P. lepidus*. Teeth of similar structure, but markedly smaller, quite unusually small in proportion to the size of the skull.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 120 mm.; tail 183; hind foot 25; ear 16.

Skull: greatest length 31.6; basilar length 25.5; zygomatic breadth 18; interorbital breadth 4.7; palatilar length 13.7; diastema 9; palatal foramina  $4.2 \times 1.5$ ; upper molar series 4.6.

*Hab.* Madeu, Upper St. Joseph's R., about 50 miles N.E. of Hall Sound, British New Guinea. Alt. 2000–3000'.

*Type.* Old female. B.M. no. 8. 10. 8. 7. Original number 585. Collected June 1908 by W. Stalker. Presented by Sir William Ingram, Bart.

This species is most closely allied to *P. lamia*, Thos., but is readily distinguishable by the more normal expansion of its zygomata and its smaller teeth.

Mr. Stalker obtained together a large number of specimens of this and *P. lepidus*, which he did not distinguish from each other, and which are, indeed, so remarkably alike externally that it needs a close examination of their tails and ears to separate them. Their size, proportions, and colour are quite the same, but *P. vates* has a coarse-scaled tail with a certain amount of hairs on it, so that it feels rough to a hand passed along it from tip towards body, while the tail of *P. lepidus* has smooth close-set scales without hairs, and feels equally smooth whichever way it is stroked.

#### LXVI.—*A new Akodon from Tierra del Fuego.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

FROM our generous correspondent Mr. J. A. Wolffsohn, of Valparaiso, we have recently received a tuco-tuco and a mouse obtained by Dr. France in Tierra del Fuego. The former may be referred to *Ctenomys fueginus*, Phil., but the latter appears to be new, and may be called

*Akodon francei*, sp. n.

A dark-coloured species of the long-skulled *A. longipilis* group. Size rather less than in *A. longipilis*. Fur close and fine, not excessively long considering that the specimen is a winter one from the far south; hairs of back about 10–11 mm. in length. General colour above slaty grey (grey no. 4 of Ridgway), the middle dorsal area slightly tinged with buffy, owing to the hairs having very narrow subterminal buffy bands on them. In the allied species *A. longipilis*, *hirtus*, and *suffusus* the bands are much broader and the general colour of the whole upper surface is therefore more strongly buffy. Head, neck, and sides nearly pure slaty grey. Under surface white, the hairs slaty basally, with white tips, the line of demarcation on sides high up and rather sharply defined, so as to give a strongly bicolor aspect to the whole animal. Ears brown. Hands and feet pure white; claws of normal proportions, not elongated as in *Chelemys*. Tail thickly hairy, conspicuously bicolor, sharply defined blackish above, white below.

Skull in general proportions very similar to that of *A. suffusus*, but rather larger and with a longer brain-case. Outer plate of anteorbital foramen rather broader. Supra-orbital edges similarly rounded; interparietal minute.

Dimensions of the type (measured by Mr. Wolffsohn before skinning, on the specimen preserved in brine):—

Head and body 116 mm. (probably more in the flesh); tail 80; hind foot 24; ear 13.

Skull: greatest length 30·3; basilar length 23; zygomatic breadth 13·6; nasals 11·5; interorbital breadth 5·2; brain-case breadth 12·5; diastema 8; palatal foramina 6·4; length of upper molar series 4·1.

*Hab.* Santa Maria, Tierra del Fuego.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 8. 11. 19. 1. Original number 283. Collected 25th August, 1908, by Dr. France. Presented by J. A. Wolffsohn, Esq.

This very striking species, which I have had much pleasure in naming after its discoverer, Dr. France, is at once recognizable by its dark olivaceous-grey colour, which contrasts with its white belly and snowy-white feet, all the other three species of the group being of a much paler grey, broadly suffused with buffy. It is most nearly allied to *A. suffusus*, which is similarly bicolor, but far less strongly contrasted, and is no doubt the latter's representative on the south side of the Straits of Magellan.